

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, and 11 are amended, claims 14-20 are added, and claims 7-9 are cancelled. Claims 1-6 and 10-20 are pending in the present application. The specification has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Support for new claims 14-20 can be found throughout the original disclosure. See, for example, original claims 1 and 7 as well as page 6, lines 4-10 of the specification, and Figs. 1-2.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Foreign Priority

In the Office Action Summary, the Examiner indicates that none of the priority documents have been received. The application is a national stage entry of International Application No. PCT/CH2003/000700, filed October 27, 2003 and claims priority to European Application No. 02406028.7, filed November 27, 2002.

According to MPEP 1893.03(c)(II), the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, as a Designated Office, will normally request the International Bureau to furnish the copy of the certified priority document upon receipt of applicant's submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 to enter the U.S. national phase. The copy from the International Bureau is placed in the U.S. national stage file.

Since a copy of the certified priority document is not present in the file wrapper of the application, Applicants respectfully request that the Office obtain a copy of the certified priority document for European Application No. 02406028.7 from the International Bureau.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. In reliance thereon and in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application, features of claim 8 and allowable claim 9 have been added to independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable. Dependent claims 2-6 and 10-13 are allowable by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 1 and on their own merits.

New Claims

New claims 14-20 recite various distinguishing features of the disclosure and are allowable over the applied art. For example, independent claim 14 recites that a control device comprises a printed circuit board with a first circuit board side that faces toward at least one electric power semiconductor component and a second circuit board side that faces away from the at least one electric power semiconductor component.

Shimizu (U.S. Patent 6,201,696) does not disclose or suggest at least this feature. On the contrary, the semiconductor chip 22 of Shimizu, which the Examiner considers to correspond to a control component, is not a printed circuit board with a side facing either of the chips 21, 23, which the Examiner considers to correspond to power semiconductor components. Cheung (U.S. Patent 6,103,803), Babb (U.S. Patent 5,730,922), and Umeda (U.S. Patent 5,398,160) do not remedy the deficiencies of Shimizu, whether considered alone or in the combination alleged by

the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 14 is allowable. Claims 15-20 are allowable by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 15 and on their own merits.

Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of present application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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